



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 25, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Paradise Management Inc., Koosharem Mine, M/031/002, Piute County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 22, 2001
Time of Inspection: 10:00 a.m.
Conditions: Clear, warm
Participants: Nick Zufelt and Steve Winslow, USFS; Stan Perks, BLM; and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Review site conditions to prepare NEPA documentation (EA), and verify soils data.

Upon arrival at the site, we discussed the operational status of the area. This site was last active during the 2000 field season. Clay had been mined from the site and had been stockpiled approximately eight miles away, near the town of Greenwich, Utah. The stockpile has since been removed. Also discussed was the request that the Peck's (contract miner) made to the Forest Service to cancel the Special Use permit for the access road. Mr. Winslow indicated that the FS would be meeting with the Peck's in the near future to discuss closure of the Special Use permit.

With regards to the EA, the Forest Service indicated that they have completed the Threatened and Endangered species clearance and that the State School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) had completed an archeology survey and clearance for the entire section prior to the land trade. The EA will now proceed, giving consideration to the mining and reclamation plan that has been submitted.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management raised issues regarding the extent of the existing disturbance and the lack of any contemporaneous reclamation, public safety with regards to the highwall and the proximity to the Forest Access Road, and the amount of material (subsoil and topsoil) that would be needed to adequately reclaim the site.

After reviewing the site, I dug several soil pits located in the proposed expansion area. Topsoil depth ranged from a minimum of 15 inches to an excess of 30 inches. This confirms soils data submitted which indicates that an average of 2 feet of soil would be available for salvage. The Forest Service expressed concerns that given the variability of soil depth, they would like to be present when soils are salvaged to assure all available soil is salvaged, and that it is not contaminated with the poorer quality overburden material.

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The amount of soil in the three existing stockpiles and the berms along the northern and eastern sides was estimated to be 13,000 cubic yards.

The surrounding vegetation was also examined. Common species identified were mountain big sagebrush, snowberry, aspen, bitterbrush, yarrow, smooth brome, crested wheatgrass, sheep fescue and an unknown bluegrass. The average of six, point-intercept transects used to estimate the aerial projection of ground cover was 72%. The reclamation success standard would be 70% of this, or 50.4% ground cover (percent cover ranged from 50 to 90%).

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

jb
cc: Stan Perks, BLM
Steve Winslow, USFS
Don Fullmer, Paradise Management Inc.
M31-02insp.